

Private

Springfield, April 17. 1850

Rev. Samuel May jun

Dear Sir,

I read your letter in the Republican to-day, for the first time seeing it. I have sent you a copy by mail. The article to which your letter refers, I did not see till it was in print. I then disapproved of it, to those who are associated with me in conducting the paper; not because I sympathize with Pittsbury or with Garrison; but think it unwise to take any notice of such fanaticism and absurdity in the newspapers, or in any other way. You ask me if I have heard their statements or arguments? I have not heard Pittsbury or Wm Stone; but have learnt the Garrison doctrines & views from him and others of his party long ago; and now make it a rule to stay away from their meetings and their teachings. Their notions, it seems to me, if noticed at all, can hardly be noticed in any other way than that of ridicule. As to reason or argument, I think they have very little to do in the matter. But I would give such folks all the talk and all the room they want, to themselves, without hindrance or offence.

Though I have never had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, I have always entertained a belief in the sincerity & purity of your private life & character; and regret to find you supporting what seems to me to be fanaticism and of mischievous tendency in Society.

With great respect
Yours obt servt

Samuel Bowler



[The body of the document contains several paragraphs of handwritten text in cursive script. The ink is significantly faded, making the text largely illegible. The handwriting is consistent throughout, suggesting a single scribe. There are several horizontal fold lines visible across the page, and some small, rectangular pieces of tape or paper are attached to the edges of the document.]